GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5358
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2000
MRPC SEAL ON MUSTARD OIL PACKS
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have decided to make it mandatory to obtain the Mustard Research Promotion Consordium seal on the packs of the mustard oil to ensure its purity;

(b) if so, the details of operational procedure of the decision in this regard;

(c) the details of the content of Argemone in the Indian rapeseed and mustard under the Seeds Act, 1968 and 1981;

(d) whether there is any contradiction between the MRPC and theDepartment of Prevention of Food Adulteration on the question or content of Argemone; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Question does not arise.

(c) The maximum permissible limit of argemone seed in Indian rapeseed and mustard is 0.10% in Cultivated seed and 0.05% in Foundation seed.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The PFA Regulation for Mustard Oil (A17.06) specifies that the test for argemone oil be `Negative`.
That means that the test recognised by the Directorate General ofHealth Services (DGHS) must confirm conclusively that there is no argemone oil whatsoever in the mustard oil.

According to the DGHS manual itself, the sensitivity of the testmethods (including Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) is upto 1000 ppm. To 50 ppm.

There is no absolute test method evolved so far which part give `negative` for the presence of argemone oil.

In the absence of any validated test method to certify for the presence of argemone oil, the mustard seed farmers and the industry would continue to suffer at the hands of PFA inspectors.

Permitted levels of Argemone seed in mustard seed and its influence on the quality of mustard oil.

Under the provisions of Section 9 (3) of the Seed Act (1966), theminimum seed certification standard was vested in the Central Government.

As part of the Seed Rule, 1968, through Seed (Amendment) Rules, 1981the rapeseed standards 1988 came into force from Kharif crop 1988.

Under the above rule, the maximum permissible limit of argemone seed in Indian rapeseed and mustard seed is 0.10% in cultivated seed and 0.05% in foundation seed.

In other words, the seedling and subsequent crop of the harvest may contain a maximum of 50 mg. to 100 mg. of argemone seed in 100 grams of Indian mustard and rapeseed.